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Private Secret Agent 23

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By Edward Nellor

Col. Ulus ("Pete") Amoss is as much a mystery to U.S. intelligence officials as the current whereabouts of Lavrenti P. Beria, deposed Soviet police boss. Amoss, publisher of a Baltimore monthly intelligence digest, is a former office of strategic services sleuth who emerges from behind the scenes every time a crack appears in the Iron Curtain.

Just prior to the recent puzzling reports that Beria had escaped from his Kremlin captives, Amoss revealed a number of details concerning efforts to bring atomic war from behind the Iron Curtain. He did not mention Beria, though published reports now link him with the purported successful snatch of Beria and some of his comrades from Kremlin clutches.

Amoss, in appearance, resembles a well-tailored college professor, bubbling with nervous energy, yet cautious in what he says. He first came into prominence in taking credit for the escape of a Polish pilot who fled in a Soviet MIG and is now in the U.S.

The pilot has since denied that any Americans helped him flee, but Amoss dismisses this with the curt statement that the Pole "doesn't know what he is talking about."

Amoss operates from his home on Gibson Island, near Washington. He speaks positively of his "operators," but his cautious approach to the subject discourages questions concerning their identity. He visited the Iron Curtain

countries recently, according to his own account, and has made contact with members of "the underground."

Recently Amoss was involved in a plan to pull an entire squadron of MIG fighters out of Russia, including a high Soviet officer who also is a pilot.

The departure of Beria from Moscow, if he had fled, is reported to have cost Amoss, as he says in the interview, "about \$100,000." That his biggest problem is obtaining funds for paying off hungry Russians who, he says, can deliver bombs, as well as documents, to ARMs, is a price is right.

Amoss has no standing with official U.S. intelligence agencies. This is not meant to imply that they discount his reporting entirely, but simply that he is not on a government intelligence Service pay roll.

He admits that the Central Intelligence Agency is outside his ken, though he stated that he has great admiration for Allen W. Dulles, CIA director, who worked with Amoss in the OSS during the war.

Lesser officials of CIA have no use for him, Amoss admits.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, which is not concerned directly with foreign intelligence, nevertheless is interested in any intelligence that could lead to underground Soviet agents. The U.S. Amoss is largely unknown to the FBI officials, nor does he have official contact with the State Department, which has its own foreign intelligence net.